



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

*"Providing technological innovation for
national security for over 40 years."*

3701 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1714

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2006

DARPA SEEKS IDEAS FOR RAPID DRUG MANUFACTURING

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is launching a new initiative to develop technologies for an extremely rapid, flexible and cost-effective manufacturing system capable of producing three million doses of vaccines or therapeutics in 12 weeks.

The initiative, known as the Accelerated Manufacturing of Pharmaceuticals (AMP) program, is soliciting innovative research proposals for the rapid manufacture of protein-based therapeutics and vaccines to protect against a wide range of viral, protozoan, fungal, bacterial and bio-toxin threats. The manufacturing technology would also be available for civilian use.

The program's broad agency announcement (BAA06-31) and its accompanying proposer information pamphlet outline the details of the AMP program (see below for website posting locations). Researchers interested in receiving early feedback from DARPA scientists have until May 17 to submit white papers. To be considered for the initial round of funding, full proposals must be received by June 21.

Current technology available to manufacture large quantities of new vaccines and therapeutics is very limited. The manufacturing of vaccine doses takes considerable time and each dose is specifically designed to combat only one disease or threat agent. Maintaining a stockpile of doses is not effective – many therapeutics require refrigeration and have limited storage times. Stockpiles are also only useful if we know in advance the future infection agent that must be countered.

In order to respond quickly to large-scale infections caused by a naturally occurring or a genetically engineered biological threat, the U.S. military must have the ability to produce therapeutics on demand, in large quantities, and at low cost.

"This is a highly aggressive research effort that requires collaboration across a variety of disciplines. AMP will bring together those with expertise in system engineering, molecular biology, protein chemistry, large scale production of proteins, and Food and Drug Administration-certified Good Manufacturing Processes," explained Dr. Michael Callahan, DARPA program manager.

The solicitation and the proposer information pamphlet are available at <http://www.fbo.gov/spg/ODA/DARPA/CMO/BAA06%2D31/listing.html> or

(more)

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=8774> . Multi-disciplinary teams are key to the program's success and researchers should visit the program's teaming website at <http://www.sainc.com/ampteaming/>. DARPA expects teams to include academic laboratories, government agencies, small biotechnology companies, large biological fermentation companies, drug companies and engineering companies.

-END-

Media with questions, please contact Jan Walker, (703) 696-2404, or [jan.walker\[at\]darpa.mil](mailto:jan.walker@darpa.mil). Researchers or military organizations, contact Dr. Michael Callahan at (571) 218-4537 or [michael.callahan\[at\]darpa.mil](mailto:michael.callahan@darpa.mil).